

***SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2002***

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 at 12:30 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President John L. Knochel, Vice President KD Benson, and Member Ruth E. Shedd. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey Kessler, Kathy Vernon, and Jeffrey A. Kemper; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was also present.

President Knochel called the County Commissioners' meeting to order.

President Byers called the County Council's meeting to order.

### **MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE**

Mr. Guerrettaz said increasing fees is not meant to gouge taxpayers.

Councilmember Vernon suggested charging a right-of-way fee for cable as the City of West Lafayette does. Mr. Guerrettaz said the standard charge is 5% of the revenue in the service territory. He suggested charging for cell towers located on County-owned property with an extra charge for each antenna on the tower. Commissioner Benson thought charging for cable and towers would make us look like we aren't progressive.

### **INTEREST INCOME**

Councilmember Kessler stated the County has 184 funds totaling approximately \$91 million that are invested in different banks. In his opinion, it would be more intelligent to pool those resources and bid out to Indiana banks for the best interest rate to increase our rate of return for everyone's gain. He said ¼% on \$90 million would earn interest of \$225,000. He talked with the County Treasurer Oneta Tolle and Mr. Guerrettaz concerning this possibility. Mr. Guerrettaz said he prepared a draft RFP to send to banks with a not-to-exceed cost of \$3,500 for the County's consideration.

### **BUSINESS PLAN**

Mr. Guerrettaz asked that a second questionnaire be sent to department heads requesting a three year projection of their personnel and capital needs so the Council can prioritize them for the Business Plan. Councilmember Fruitt commented that we need a way for department heads to forecast their needs.

President Byers asked if the County can appeal for an Excess Levy for a new building or buildings at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Guerrettaz responded that buildings don't qualify. Auditor Plantenga pointed out enacting a new property tax levy for 4-H construction would be within our Maximum Levy.

Auditor Plantenga announced that we advertised the County's intent to appeal for an Excess Levy to pay for the Courthouse Bailiffs. However, during the 2003 Budget Hearings, five (5) of the Bailiff positions were cut because the Sheriff didn't feel that many were necessary for security at the Courthouse. Instead, they will be moved to the Jail when the expansion is completed. Auditor Plantenga said if the County appeals and is successful, we would be forced to add them back in.

Councilmember Kessler thought a certain number of Bailiffs were mandated for security. Attorney Luhman clarified that the mandate left the number of Bailiffs to the discretion of the Sheriff.

Councilmember Fruitt wondered if the County can sell an asset and use that money to support a department. (i.e.

sell Villa farmland and use funds to support Villa operations.) Mr. Guerrettaz responded that the money has to go back to the fund that provided the asset. He said it might be possible to create a non-reverting operating fund for the Villa. He cautioned against selling land because, if the County wants to buy it back twenty years down the road, it could cost at least three times as much.

Mr. Guerrettaz said the impact on the County of phasing out the Inventory Tax early will have to be calculated. If development starts happening again, then phasing out the Tax could be an economic development tool to stimulate more growth.

Set a date to formally approve the Business Plan after updates are complete.

The State's 2003 projection for EDIT is \$4,294,401.

### **OVERHEAD COST ALLOCATION**

Attorney Luhman observed that the General Fund is approximately one half of our revenue but picks up 100% of overhead such as space, utilities, insurance, etc. for all departments. He suggested cost accounting for allocation of those costs. He said that approximately \$800,000 of the Commissioners' Budget items provide for all departments. If half of those costs were paid from non-General Fund sources, it would help the General Fund. He wondered if it would be worth the cost. Mr. Guerrettaz suggested using an outside third party to determine cost allocations on an impartial basis rather than putting that responsibility onto the Auditor.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Joint Council and Commissioners' Meeting with Mr. Guerrettaz will be held at Noon, Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

### **ADJOURNMENT/RECESS**

- Commissioner Benson moved to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.
- President Byers recessed the County Council until 2:00 P.M.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John L. Knochel, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
KD Benson, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth E. Shedd, Member

### **ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor